



The Tom-Tom



A Student Publication of
EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume 70

April 2019



ECCC announces 2019 Hall of Fame



BURNS



ETHRIDGE



FERGUSON



GREENWOOD



SCITZS



WARNSLEY

Six new inductees will join the East Central Community College Student Hall of Fame during the annual Awards Ceremony scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 25, 2019, in Huff Auditorium.

Hall of Fame inductees for 2019 and their respective high schools include Anna Burns of Leake Central, Ryan Ethridge and Rebekah Scitzs, both of West Lauderdale, Nicole Ferguson and Shelby Greenwood, both of Neshoba Central, and Joshua Warnsley of Newton County.

Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college, according to Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president.

"To be considered for the prestigious honor," Dr. Stewart said, "students must demonstrate exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribute to the betterment of East Central Community College."

Various academic, career, technical, healthcare and other special awards will also be presented during the special program.

The public is invited to attend and there is no charge for admission.

Burns is a graduate of Leake Central High School and is majoring in agricultural leadership.

A President's and Dean's list scholar, she serves as vice president of the

Student Body Association, vice president of fellowship for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and serves on the leadership council for the Baptist Student Union.

She is a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, Environmental Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and President's Council. Burns is also active in intramural sports and participates in College Worship at Clarke-Venable Baptist Church.

Her nominators wrote, "She has clearly illustrated proven leadership and the ability to be highly active in a wide range of extracurricular activities while maintaining an outstanding academic record.

"She is a great representation of everything a well-rounded student should be. She has an amazing character that embodies Christ and I can't think of a more deserving person for the ECCC Hall of Fame."

Ethridge is a graduate of West Lauderdale High School and is a contemporary worship leadership major.

A President's List scholar, he serves as vice president of leadership for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and co-president of Warrior Corps student recruiting group.

He is a member of the Baptist Student Union Praise Team, Alpha Alpha Epsi-

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Dr. Stewart



EC PHOTO

Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Phi Theta Kappa recently assembled bags for Project Sweetheart. Project Sweetheart was started by a state trooper for children who were in need because of a trauma. Each bag contained a blanket, book, and stuffed animal. The students were able to assemble 100 bags to donate to Project Sweetheart because of donations by members of each club. The bags were delivered to local police departments, fire departments, and other emergency service officials. Taking part in assembly of the bags included, front row, from left, Marrian Haralson, Mickenzie Myers, Shelby Greenwood, Rebekah Scitzs, and Marzell Triplett; back row, are Joshua Warnsley, Zack Nowell, Ryan Ethridge, Jason Newbaker, and Evan Miles.

Scitzs, Blaine selected Mr. & Miss ECCC

Austin Blaine of Louisville and Rebekah Scitzs of Collinsville were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for the 2018-19 school year by a recent vote of the student body.

Scitzs serves as vice president of student research and webmaster for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, and is a member of Warrior Corps student recruiters, Students Against Destructive Decisions, EC Students for Life, and Baptist Student Union. She is a cheerleader and member of the Centralettes dance line and participates in College Worship at Clarke-Venable Baptist Church.

She is a Dean's List scholar and was selected for the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team. She plans to continue her educa-

tion at Mississippi University for Women to complete her bachelor's degree in nursing.

A graduate of West Lauderdale High School, she is the daughter of Steve and Dianne Scitzs of Collinsville.

Blaine serves as president of Students Against Destructive Decisions, secretary of College Republicans, and secretary of the Student Body Association. He is a member of EC Students for Life and the Environmental Club.

He is a Dean's List scholar and was an escort on the 2018 Homecoming Court.

He plans to continue his education at Mississippi State University to obtain a bachelor's degree in education.

A graduate of Winston Academy, he is the son of Glen and Dana Blaine and Sherry Blaine of Louisville.



EC PHOTO

Austin Blaine and Rebekah Scitzs were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for 2018-19

PTK award

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart received the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction during the society's annual convention Friday, April 5, in Orlando, Fla.

PTK's Shirley B. Gordon Award is presented to college presidents who have shown strong support of student success on their campuses by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students. Stewart was nominated for the award by student members of East Central's Theta Xi Chapter of PTK.

The Shirley B. Gordon Award is Phi Theta

See STEWART, Page 4

Three college residence halls to be renovated for Fall 2019

East Central Community College will continue its quest to make comfortable campus living a priority with the planned renovation of several dormitories over the summer.

According to Artie Foreman, superintendent of the ECCC physical plant, Neshoba, Scott and Winston halls will see improvements including new paint, flooring and furniture.

"The rooms at Neshoba Hall and Scott Hall will have new beds, desks, chairs, and wardrobes with drawers. Winston Hall, which has built-in study and closet areas, will have new beds and chairs. All three will have new flooring and paint," said Foreman.

The project is slated to

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EC PHOTO

CLASS FAVORITES – These students were recently selected class favorites following a vote of the student body. Students and their respective high schools are (front row, from left) freshmen Maggie Wooldridge of West Lauderdale, Lydia Bishop of Sebastopol, Giuliana Donato of Leake Academy and Bryce Callie Lott of Sebastopol; and sophomores Courtney McNair of Neshoba Central, Marla Hudson and Brooke Watson, both of Winston Academy, and Anna Burns of Leake Central; and (back row, from left) freshmen Caleb Collins of Clinton, Riley Hardy of Starkville and Joel Hill of Newton County; and sophomores Chris Brown of Leake Central, Jovani Mondragon of Forest, James Van Fleet of Scott Central and Joshua Warnsley of Newton County. Not pictured is freshman Matthew Riley of Murrah.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

WINS FIRST PLACE ART AWARD – East Central Community College art major Keli Smith of Forest received a first place award for her entry “Consumption” in the Three-Dimensional Design category of the Mississippi Community/Junior College Art Instructors Association 2019 state art competition. Other ECCC art students participating in the event, which was hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and their respective art categories were Cassidy Jenkins of Philadelphia and Rebekah Smith and Jack Vidals, both of Chunky, who all entered works in the Two-Dimensional Design category; Joe Prine of Louin, Painting; and Halley Brooks of Carthage, Drawing. ECCC art instructors are Jeffrey Hodges and LeeReyna Leyva.

Jesse Ladd Memorial Scholarship established

Family and friends of former East Central Community College student Jesse Ladd of Union have established a scholarship at the college in Ladd’s memory.

The scholarship was approved by the college’s Board of Trustees at its March meeting.

Ladd was killed in an automobile accident in January 2019. At the time, he was a student in ECCC’s Surgical Technology program.

students from the college’s entire five-county district can be considered; preference will be given to graduates of Union High School and Newton County High School; students must be enrolled as a full-time student, in good standing, as a sophomore; and students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA upon entering the sophomore year at ECCC.

The East Central Community College Scholarship Committee will





KEEN CROWNED MOST BEAUTIFUL – Sophomore psychology major Iris Keen (center) of Louisville was crowned East Central Community College's Most Beautiful 2019 at the college's annual beauty pageant March 11 in Huff Auditorium. Keen is a graduate of Winston Academy. Sixteen East Central students participated in the event. Also named beauties were (from left) Marla Hudson, a sophomore nursing major from Louisville and Winston Academy; Ramiah Johnson, a sophomore English major from Morton and Morton High School; Rebekah Scitzs, a sophomore nursing major from Collinsville and West Lauderdale High School; and Shelby Greenwood, a sophomore speech pathology major from Philadelphia and Neshoba Central High School.

EC PHOTO

and was named STAR student. He had worked as an EMT and was an Airman First Class in the Mississippi Air National Guard.

The Jesse Ladd Memorial Scholarship will provide \$250 annually in the summer term or fall semester to students in the college's Surgical Technology program.

Other scholarship criteria include preference will be given to students residing in Newton or Neshoba County, although

be awarded on a year-to-year basis dependent on the availability of funding.

To make a contribution to the Jesse Ladd Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College, send a check made payable to the ECCC Foundation to David LeBlanc, director of alumni relations and the foundation, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327. For more information, contact LeBlanc at 601-635-6327 or dleblanc@eccc.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ECCC Phi Beta Lambda students receiving awards during the State Leadership Conference included (front row, from left) Caleb McGrew of Meridian, and Barbara Bobo, Shelby Greenwood and Hannah Stokes, all of Philadelphia; (second row, from left) James Van Fleet of Forest, Camilla Addy of Decatur, and Beth Fortner of Port Gibson; (third row, from left) Jerry Davidson of Philadelphia, Lexi Rover of Little Rock and Sam Loper of Philadelphia; and (back row, from left) Daniel Triplett of Preston, Jacob Plaisance of Union, Tucker Cain of Carthage, and Justin Wilcher of Philadelphia.

Phi Beta Lambda students receive top honors in state competition

Fourteen members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda participated in the 2019 State Leadership Conference and all placed first in their respective events, which qualified them for national competition scheduled in June in San Antonio, Texas. The state conference was held at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

Theta Chi also received first place in raising funds for the March of Dimes, received Foundation Recognition and was recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter.

Individual recognition was given to Justin Wilcher of Philadelphia, who was elected state PBL president and also received the Rufus T. Jones Scholarship, and Hanna Stokes of Philadelphia,

who was elected state PBL parliamentarian.

Wilcher was also recognized as the outgoing state vice president and Sam Loper of Philadelphia was recognized as the outgoing state parliamentarian.

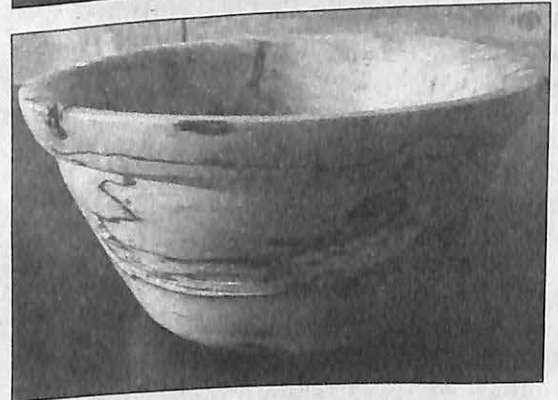
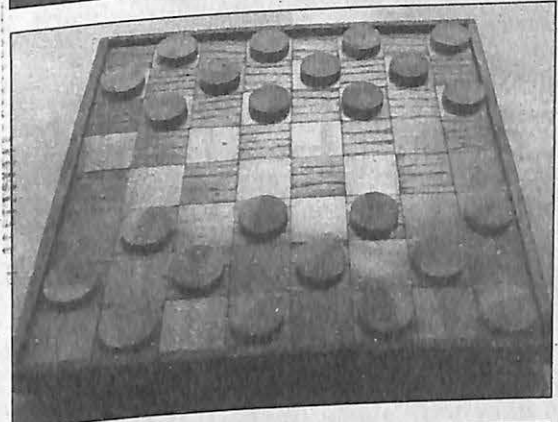
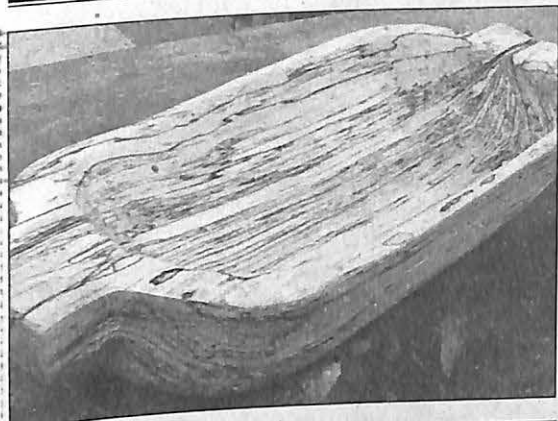
Inducted into the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame in recognition of a first place awards at the 2018 National Leadership Conference were Samantha McMullan of Decatur, Jackie Cates of Newton, and Nicole Ferguson, Khalil Triplett, Shelby Greenwood, Loper and Wilcher, all of Philadelphia.

State award winners include Jerry Davidson of Philadelphia and Daniel Triplett of Preston, first place, local chapter annual business report; Caleb McGrew of Meridian, first place, business

sustainability; Davidson, Triplett and James Van Fleet of Forest, first place, computer animation; Lexi Rover of Little Rock and Tucker Cain of Carthage, first place, community service; Barbara Bobo of Philadelphia, Loper and Wilcher, first place, financial services; Wilcher, Cain, Greenwood, Rover and Stokes, first place, parliamentary procedures; Beth Fortner of Port Gibson, first place, public speaking; Greenwood and Stokes, first place, integrated marketing campaign; Beth Fortner and Camilla Addy of Decatur, first place, social media campaign; and Jacob Plaisance of Union, Addy and Van Fleet, first place, strategic analysis.

Christy Ferguson, Thomas Fortenberry, Judy Hurtt and Bobby Hebert serve as advisors.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!
Submit stories, photos or ideas to athompson@eccc.edu



ECCC Physical Plant Director enjoys woodworking hobby

Artie Foreman of Little Rock serves as superintendent of the East Central Community College physical plant, where he is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the college's physical plant, grounds and transportation equipment. He's been employed at the college since 1993.

When he is not taking care of the ECCC campus, Foreman enjoys a very successful woodworking business. For now, he says, it's a hobby; however, in a few years, when he retires, it's something he says he might consider as a primary job.



EC PHOTOS

Top photo, ECCC Tennis Team manager Amia Henry and members Josie Hurst, and Isaac Santitto, help clean up at Northside Park in Philadelphia; bottom left, Judith Hurtt organizes books at the Walnut Grove Public Library; and bottom right, Hayden Sullivan paints the bathroom at Newton County Courthouse.

tradition.

Foreman said, "I've always been interested in working with wood. My Granddaddy had a sawmill when I was around five or six and I've had several great uncles who worked with wood, so I guess you could say in runs in the family."

Foreman said he also learned a lot about the trade as a student at Beulah Hubbard High School.

"Mr. John Smith was my Ag teacher and he had a big impact on me. I learned a lot from him," he said.

Among his homespun items are hand-turned bowls, dough bowls, cabinets, bird houses, wood kitchen utensils, wall decor, tables, benches, chairs, barn doors, swings, Christmas ornaments, flags, decks, and porches.

In addition, he said he has incorporated aluminum with his wood pieces to make some wall decor and occasionally uses his son's (Peyton) blacksmith forge to make door pulls. Mainly he sticks to wood creations.

He said he doesn't really have a favorite item to make; however, his favorite tool is his wood lathe and he enjoys turning items on it.

"I love making things from God's creation," he said. "I like to look at a tree and just picture what can be made from it. That's what I like about turning on my lathe, most of the time I don't have a plan for it. I just start turning and when it's finished it's a unique piece because it's the only one like it. You try to explain to some people what something is going to look like and they can't see it like I can."

Foreman said he uses all kinds of wood including pine, oak, persimmon, sassafras, magnolia, cherry, beech, cedar, black walnut, maple, ash, and others.

"I don't really have a favorite kind of wood, because each one is unique," he said. "Most of the wood I use to turn bowls is either given to me, or I come across it from a tree being cut down. I usually don't cut trees just to turn something."

One of Foreman's most recent projects was an oak television entertainment center and a china cabinet that someone



EC PHOTO

Physical Plant Director Artie Foreman enjoys woodworking in his spare time.

had commissioned.

"I like to think that all my projects are good, but those two really turned out great, I think. And one of my other favorites, and one of the most unusual I've made, is a bowl that is round and all one piece but has a square lip around it."

Like any longtime artist, he's also had pieces that didn't turn out quite right, including the time that he glued something up and then later realized he had put it together backwards. But, thankfully, he says those kinds of mess ups don't happen too often. There have even been a few times when a mistake turned out better than the original idea.

Foreman says most ideas he comes up with on his own, but some people put in special requests.

"Most of my work is original, but I do look on the internet from time to time and some people send me pictures of what they want me to build."

He said most of his sales come from people who have either seen his work or heard about it from others. In addition to special orders, Foreman also sells some of his designs on Facebook.

"It's hard to sell some items in this area, like hand-turned bowls, because people think it's easy to do, and when you put a price of fifty or sixty dollars on it they think that's too high," he said. "But, although I enjoy making things, it's time consuming from the time you find a piece of wood to use, make the blank, get it roughed out, do a final sanding, and finish coat. Some pieces take many hours to complete."

For more information or to see additional photographs of Foreman's designs, visit his Facebook page at Foreman Wood Designs.

be completed by July 31.

Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president, said, "We are the most residential community college in the state of Mississippi based on the percentage of students living on campus. Therefore, it is important that we continually enhance the on-campus living experience, which plays a significant role in the overall success of our students."

Newsome Hall and

Todd Hall underwent extensive renovations during summer 2015 and a new women's residence hall opened in fall 2017.

Several contracts were awarded for the work. Painting is being completed by Innovative Performance from Jackson. Flooring is being installed by Anderson Design from Hattiesburg. Furniture is being installed by Leeder Furniture from Lake Forest, Ill.

in first district-wide day of service

The first-ever EC Cares for our Community day, a time when East Central Community College faculty, staff, and students gave back to the communities in the college's five-county district of Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston counties, was held Friday, March 8, 2019.

The project, which the college hopes will become an annual day of service, originated among members of the college's Administration, Faculty and Staff Association (AFSA). More than 100 people volunteered for various service projects at locations throughout the district.

"Community Partnerships is one of five insti-

tutional commitments of our **2020 Vision** strategic plan at East Central Community College," said Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president. "When the idea was proposed to choose a day and allow our faculty, staff, and students to volunteer in the communities of our district, we knew that it was a great way to not only meet that strategic initiative, but to give back to and engage the people in our communities as well. Although no one was required to participate, members of our campus community were given the opportunity to volunteer for a half-day of service, and we were excited at the number of people who were willing to give of their time and effort to serve others."

Service locations for our first EC Cares for the Community day included Roxy Theatre in Newton, Newton County Courthouse in Decatur, EXCEL of Morton, We Care Missions in Morton, Northside Park in Philadelphia, Philadelphia/Neshoba County Library, Trend Health and Rehab of Carthage, Walnut Grove Public Library, Carthage Public Library, and Hope Missions and Baptist Children's Village, both in Louisville.

Service activities included cleaning and organizing, painting, landscaping, carpentry, shelving books, office work, and playing games and interacting with residents, among other requested tasks.

Diesel Equipment Technology Program to be offered in Philadelphia in fall 2019

East Central Community College will offer a new program in Diesel Equipment Technology in Philadelphia beginning in Fall 2019, pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The instructional program, which will be located at the previous U.S. Motors plant, will provide students with competencies required to maintain a variety of industrial diesel equipment, including agricultural tractors, commercial trucks, and construction equipment. It will include instruction in inspections, repair, maintenance of engines, power trains, hydraulic systems and other components.

Wayne Eason, ECCC director of Career and

Technical Education, said, "We are excited to offer Diesel Equipment Technology at ECCC. Businesses and industries in our district have expressed a great need for these technicians. We look forward to training our future workforce and filling this need with qualified technicians."

Students can select between several pathways, including a career certificate, technical certificate or an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Coursework will include Fundamentals of Equipment Mechanics, Electrical/Electronic Systems I, II, and III, Hydraulics I, Diesel Systems I, II, and III, Preventive Maintenance and Service, Transportation Power Train, Air Conditioning and Heating Systems,

Advanced Brake Systems (Air), Steering and Suspension Systems, and Heavy Equipment Powertrain.

According to recent statistics by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, experienced diesel technicians in the East Central Community College area can earn up to \$26.12 per hour or \$54,324 annually.

To be considered for the program, prospective students must complete the online ECCC application for admission at www.eccc.edu, and submit all official high school and college transcripts or an official high school equivalency diploma.

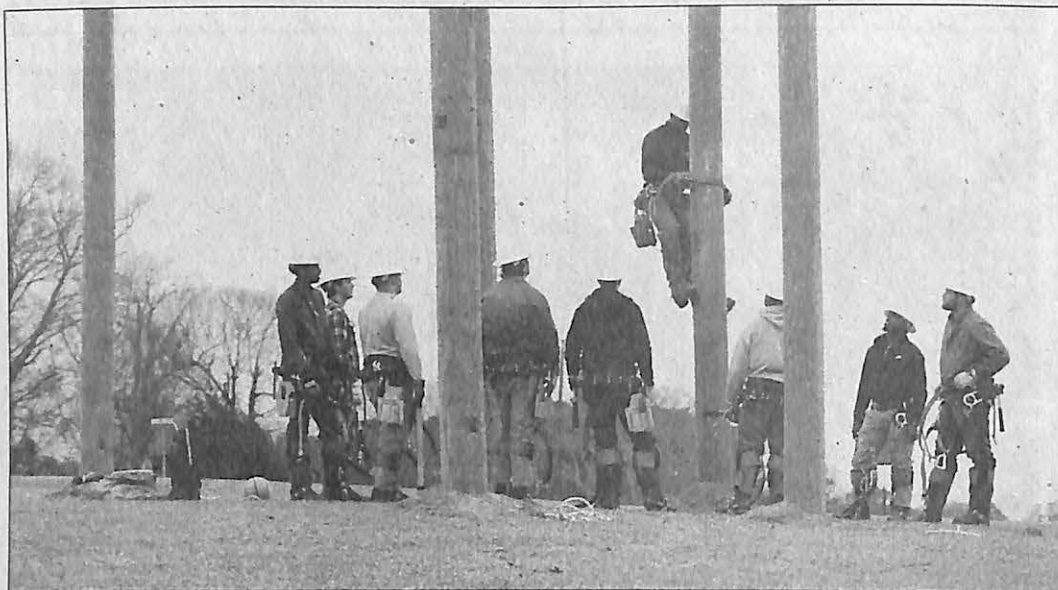
For more information, contact Eason at 601-635-6210 or email weason@eccc.edu.

DORMS

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begin on May 6 and the first phase will include Scott Hall and the first floor of Neshoba Hall. This will allow Scott Hall to be ready when football players arrive for summer school in July.

Phase two will include Winston Hall and the second floor of Neshoba Hall. All work is scheduled to



EC PHOTO

Instructor Curtis Bradley demonstrates for his students the proper procedures for safely climbing a utility pole during East Central Community College's first-ever Electrical Utility Lineman program. Registration is currently underway for the next 16-week program, which begins Aug. 5, 2019.

Sign up underway for next 16-week Electrical Utility Lineman program

The East Central Community College Workforce Development Center will once again offer a 16-week program in Electrical Utility Lineman beginning Aug. 5, 2019.

Those interested in the program should pick up an admissions packet at the ECCC Workforce Development Center by April 19 and return it no later than May 31, 2019. Participants must be at least 18-years-old and have a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate.

The cost is \$1,500 per person and Curtis Bradley will serve as instructor. Classes meet from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The Electrical Utility Lineman program is designed to prepare students for entry-level employment in the field of utility power transmission.

repair. It is a non-credit program.

Over the duration of the class, successful students will earn certifications including a Class A Commercial Driver's License, First Aid CPR and OSHA 10-Hour. Also, as part of the preliminary screening of applicants, an individual will obtain a National Career Readiness Credential.

The program also incorporates hands-on learning activities including making connections of meter loops, transformers, and other equipment on de-energized poles; assisting with the framing and installation of utility poles and apparatus on the ground; assisting in the burying of cable and other related work; operating vehicles and equipment safely, including bucket trucks, digger derricks, trucks and forklifts; differentiating between

energized structure and recognize hazards; making basic connections and disconnections; and checking voltage/amperes.

During the semester students will also drive commercial vehicles with automatic transmission and maneuver, back up, and park a trailer, which will require a CDL Class A Learner's Permit with Air Brakes. A Mississippi CDL Learner's Permit requires passage of the General Knowledge, Combination, and Air Brakes tests, along with a D.O.T. Physical and D.O.T. Drug Screen.

Prospective students must obtain a CDL Class A Learner's Permit with Air Brakes and the National Career Readiness Credential requirement.

For more information, contact Chris Clark, workforce development coordinator, at 601-635-6245 or email cclark@ecc.edu.

AWARDS

From Page 1

lon engineering club, and the President's Council. He was selected 2018 Top Male C++ Programmer and recipient of a Bull Dog Bytes award, and was selected for the NASA Internship Program at the Stennis Space Center.

His nominators wrote, "He is a dedicated student who excels academically in one of the most arduous programs, works hard to be a good role model for other students, demonstrates Christian morals and impeccable behaviors, and has an outstanding reputation that exemplifies excellence with class."

Ferguson is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and is an Associate Degree Nursing major.

A Dean's List scholar, she serves as co-president of the Baptist Student Union, is a member of the BSU Council and Praise Team, and reporter for Phi Beta Lambda.

She is a member of the President's Council, Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and Association of Student Nurses at EC. She was selected for the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame, Who's Who in PBL, and has received various state and national PBL awards.

Her nominators wrote, "She has made a lasting impression on me not only because she has excelled academically, but because she exhibits the compassion and caring attitude towards patients and her fellow classmates that is essential in our career and in life. Few people get the chance to teach some-

one who inspires them to be the best they can be. Nicole is one of those rare individuals."

Greenwood is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and is a speech pathology major.

A President's and Dean's List scholar, she serves as vice president of the President's Council, vice president of outreach for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and secretary of Phi Beta Lambda.

As a cheerleader, she is a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and she is also a member of Diamond Darlings, Environmental Club and Baptist Student Union. She also received state and national recognition from Phi Beta Lambda.

Her nominators wrote, "She is involved in everything and is a willing, dependable follower and leader in all that she does, and she does a lot! She represents the ideal ECCC student, i.e., intelligent, engaging, hard-working, dependable and cheerful. ... She is that team member who everyone likes and everyone wants on their team!"

Scitzs is a graduate of West Lauderdale High School and is a nursing major.

A Dean's List scholar, she serves as vice president for research and webmaster for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and is a member of the Baptist Student Union College Worship Leadership Team.

She is a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, EC Students for Life, Students Against Destructive Decisions, College Republicans,

and is a cheerleader and former member of the Centralettes dance line.

Her nominators wrote, "Everywhere we go she is always trying to make sure people know how amazing EC really is. She proudly wears the black and gold and will always push for someone to come to EC and be a member of the group of people she calls family. Rebekah is not only the most vibrant, but also one of the hardest working students on campus."

Warnsley is a graduate of Newton County High School and is an engineering major.

A Dean's List scholar, he serves as president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and president of the sophomore class. He was selected for a National Community College Aerospace Scholarship and won MVP at the NASA internship event.

He is a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, Alpha Alpha Epsilon engineering club, Students Against Destructive Decisions, President's Council, and SkillsUSA.

His nominators wrote, "Joshua is a star scholar who has earned this title. He exercises great leadership skills that expose who he truly is: a hard-working, dedicated young man who is devoted to East Central Community College and its students.

"Joshua has a magnetic personality and seems to know everyone and everyone seems to know him. That charismatic personality combined with his work ethic and obvious love of people will lead to great successes in his life."

FEATURE TEACHER

Benjamin Frayser

Benjamin Frayser is a Nutrition

STEWART

From Page 1

Kappa's most prestigious award for community college presidents and is named in honor of the late Dr. Gordon, PTK's longest-serving Board of Directors Chair and a founder and longtime president of Highline Community College in Washington.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to receive this award from Phi Theta Kappa," said Stewart, who was named the eighth president of ECCC in July 2012. "The fact that I was nominated by our own East Central Community College PTK students makes this honor even more rewarding. Although I may be on stage accept-

ing the Shirley B. Gordon Award on April 5, I will do so on behalf of the entire ECCC family who support and value the success of all of our students."

At East Central, Stewart initiated a strategic planning process to shape and guide the future of the institution. As a result, **2020 Vision** was adopted in February 2013 and includes a long-term desire to be nationally recognized and locally preferred while meeting the educational and training needs of all residents of the college district.

A native of Pearl and the son of Linda Stewart and the late Billy Stewart, Sr., Stewart earned his bachelor's degree in history and his master's degree in curriculum and

instruction, both from the University of Southern Mississippi, and his doctorate in higher education administration from Mississippi State University.

Prior to assuming the presidency at ECCC, he served as vice president for finance and administration at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Stewart has also worked as dean of community services and dean of the Simpson County Center for Copiah-Lincoln Community College. To date, he has served almost 30 years in various teaching and administrative positions in all levels of education in the state of Mississippi.

Stewart and his wife, Stephanie, reside on the East Central campus in Decatur. They have four children: Stephen, a 2016 ECCC graduate and a 2018 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM); Will, a 2017 ECCC graduate and a senior at Mississippi State University; Elizabeth, a freshman at William Carey University; and Emily, a sophomore at Newton County High School. Stephen Stewart's wife, the former Louise Berryhill of Stratton, is a 2016 ECCC graduate, 2018 graduate of USM, and currently a first-year medical student at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson.

PTK is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them grow as scholars and leaders. PTK has more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters the United States and nine other countries.

The society's annual convention, PTK Catalyst 2019, was April 4-6 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando.

■ What made you want to become a teacher?

The main thing that made me want to become a teacher was I used to teach Sunday School and Youth Groups and then I realized how rewarding and fun it was.

■ What is the highest degree you hold?

Master's Degree in Biomedical Science.

■ Where all have you taught?

This is my first place teaching.

■ Why did you choose to teach Nutrition?

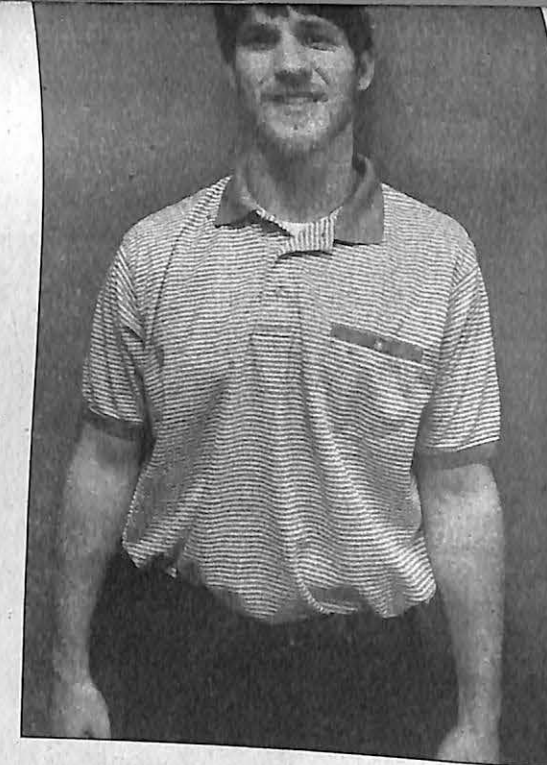
It was one of my favorite subjects when I was in school and it is something people only know so much about.

■ What are some of your hobbies outside of teaching?

I like being active. I like anything to do with physical activity.

■ What is one thing on your bucket list?

Skydiving would be great.



■ Do you have any special plans for summer?

Make sure my stuff is put together for next year as well as go on a one-year anniversary trip with my wife.

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is published by the Office of Public Information. For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by Dr. Teresa Mackey, Vice President for Instruction, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, tmackey@eccc.edu.

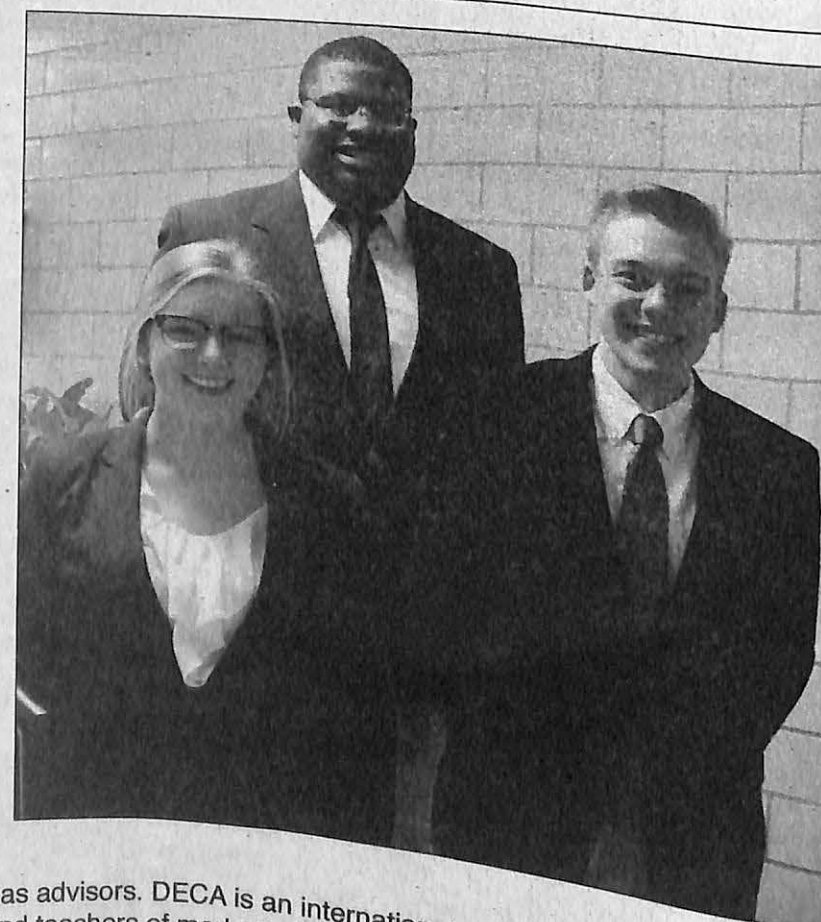
Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 and ADA are coordinated by Dr. Randall Lee, Vice President for Student Services, Eddie M. Smith Student Union, Room 201, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6375, Fax: 601-635-3247, rlee@eccc.edu.

Adviser:

Amy Thompson

DECA STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

— These East Central Community College DECA students received various awards during state competition and advanced to international competition scheduled in Orlando in April 2019. Award recipients included (from left) Victoria Ferguson of Decatur, second place in financial accounting; Christian Sharpe of Carthage, first place in managerial accounting; and Hunter Thrash of Philadelphia, second place in marketing management. ECCC instructors Wanda Hurley, Ruth Gregory and Barry Karrh serve as advisors. DECA is an international association of high school and college students and teachers of marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service. The organization prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas.



EC PHOTO

DECA is an international association of high school and college students and teachers of marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service. The organization prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas.



EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



EC PHOTO

Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for East Central Community College's new campus food pantry sponsored by the college's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda were (from left) Dr. Teresa Mackey, vice president for instruction; Justin Wilcher of Philadelphia, president of Theta Chi Chapter of PBL; Christy Ferguson, business technology instructor and PBL advisor; Caleb McGrew of Meridian, PBL member; and Dr. Billy Stewart, college president. Warrior POST (Providing Others Support Together) provides free non-perishable food items and other life necessities to currently enrolled students with demonstrated need. It is located in Room 211 of the Tucker Applied Technology Center on campus.

PBL's Warrior POST food pantry opens on campus

East Central Community College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 12, 2019 for a new campus food pantry sponsored by the college's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda.

Warrior POST (Providing Others Support Together) provides free non-perishable food items and other life necessities to currently enrolled students with demonstrated need. It is located in Room 211 of the Tucker Applied Technology Center.

The idea originated from ECCC academic counselors Lanette Hanna and Jennifer Savell, who recognized the need during conversations with students on campus.

"After talking with our residents who are currently in the

silence. We hope this is just the beginning phase of how we can help our students."

Ferguson said, "Our ultimate goal is to have 'students feeding students.' We hope not only to feed them physically, but mentally and spiritually as well."

To apply for assistance, students must complete and submit an online application form, which is available at www.eccc.edu/warrior-post. Once the application is approved, the student is contacted through his or her ECCC email account. Donated items may be picked up from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month.

visit.

Recipients will be asked to attend two workshops within two months to continue to receive donations. Workshops will include Financial Literacy, Eating Healthy, and Employment Procedures, among other topics. Online registration will be available for the workshops.

Any person or organization can make donations of non-perishable food items and other necessities to the Warrior POST food pantry. Canned food drives by ECCC student organizations and local organizations to support Warrior POST are encouraged.

For more information or to see a list of currently needed items in the food pantry, please visit the



EC PHOTOS

EVANS RECOGNIZED AS ECCC HUMANITIES INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR – Guitar instructor Chas Evans (center), who also serves as chair of the Division of Fine Arts, was recently selected East Central Community College's "Humanities Instructor of the Year" and was recognized during a special program Tuesday, March 12, 2019. He is pictured with Molly McMillan (left), who represented the Mississippi Humanities Council, and Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president. In addition to receiving his award, Evans presented a program he titled "Song Anatomy," in which he discussed the art of songwriting and popular music in general. He presented the formulas, tropes, and methods in songwriting, from the lyrics and music through production and mastering. Evans is a native of Chunky and a graduate of Newton County High School. He received his Associate of Arts in music from East Central Community College and completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from the University of Southern Mississippi.

ECCC students named to PTK's All-Mississippi Academic Team

East Central Community College sophomores Rebekah Scitzs of Collinsville and Marzell Triplett of Forest were named to the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa Community and Junior Colleges All-Mississippi Academic Team.

The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team



SCITZS

recently selected Miss ECCC by vote of the student body.

A graduate of West Lauderdale High School, she is the daughter of Steve and Dianne Scitzs.

Triplett, a computer science major, was one of 48 students named to the Second Team.

A Dean's List scholar, he is vice president of scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Astronomy Club, and Alpha Alpha Epsi-

some of our students don't always have access to food or a seven-day meal plan. We began tossing around the idea about how to establish a food pantry to accommodate these students," Hanna said.

Savell added, "We decided to ask Christy Ferguson, one of the Phi Beta Lambda sponsors, if that organization would be interested in adopting the food pantry as a service project. Christy was more than willing to assist and get the ball rolling. She has been instrumental in the development of this project. The food pantry will be an asset to ECCC students who might be experiencing hunger in



read, sign, and date a Waiver of Liability form, located on the webpage and bring it on the first

warriorpost@eccc.edu. Ferguson can be reached at 601-635-6292 or by email at cferguson@eccc.edu.

leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

Scitzs, a nursing major, was one of 15 students named to the First Team. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

A Dean's List scholar, she is a member of the ECCC Cheerleading Squad, vice president of research for Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and EC Students for Life. Scitzs was



TRIPLETT

Attendance Center and the son of Melvin Triplett and Rachel Clark.

They were honored along with other outstanding community and junior college students from across the state during an event in Jackson.

Both honorees received medallions, certificates, and printed resolutions from the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board.

Asagunla, Croswell represent ECCC at annual HEADWAE program

Sophomore Mayowa "Mario" Asagunla of Jackson and English instructor Pam Croswell of Union represented East Central Community College at the 2018-19 Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program in February.

The annual HEADWAE observance was established by the Mississippi Legislature to honor academically talented students and faculty members from each of the 36 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges.

Asagunla is a sophomore mechanical engineering major and a graduate of Hillcrest Christian School in Jackson.

A Dean's List Scholar, he was named a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-American and received the Luke 2:52 Award as a member of the ECCC Warrior football team. He is a member of Phi Theta

Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, and participates in Baptist Student Union, Clarke-Venable Baptist Church College Worship, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He is the son of Adekumbi (Mary) Asagunla of Jackson and his guardians are Luke and April Epperon of Jackson.

Croswell has 25 years in the field of education and has been employed at East Central since 2006.

She was selected ECCC Academic Instructor of the Year in 2015, was a Lamplighter Award recipient in 2013 and was a William Winter Scholar Award recipient at the 2012 Natchez Literary Festival. In addition, she is a Mississippi Virtual Community College Certified Online Instructor.

She received her master's degree at Mississippi State University, her bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College, an associate's degree from Meridian Community College, and is a

graduate of Union High School.

He is married to Patrick Croswell and has one step daughter, Tessa Kate Croswell.

She is the daughter of Delois Burnett and the late Wavell Burnett. She attends Pine Grove Baptist Church.

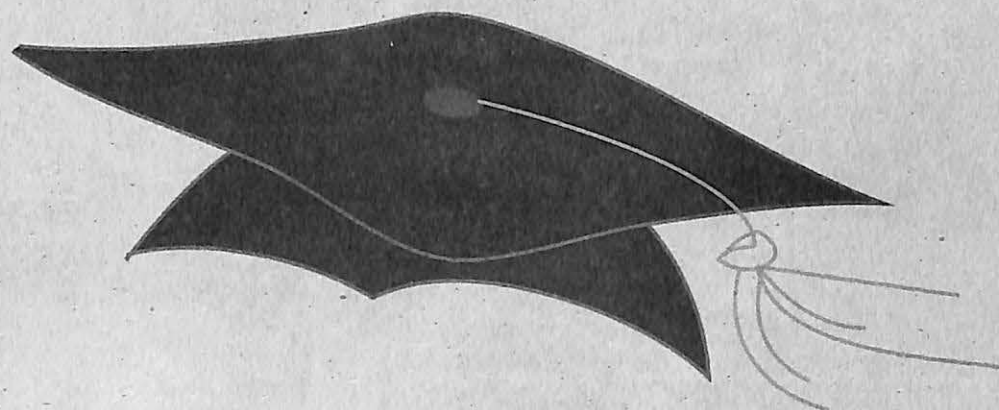
The program began at the State Capitol and was followed by a luncheon at the Jackson Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson, during which each student and faculty honoree was recognized in front of their guests, institution leaders, corporate sponsors and legislators.



ASAGUNLA



CROSWELL



EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Commencement

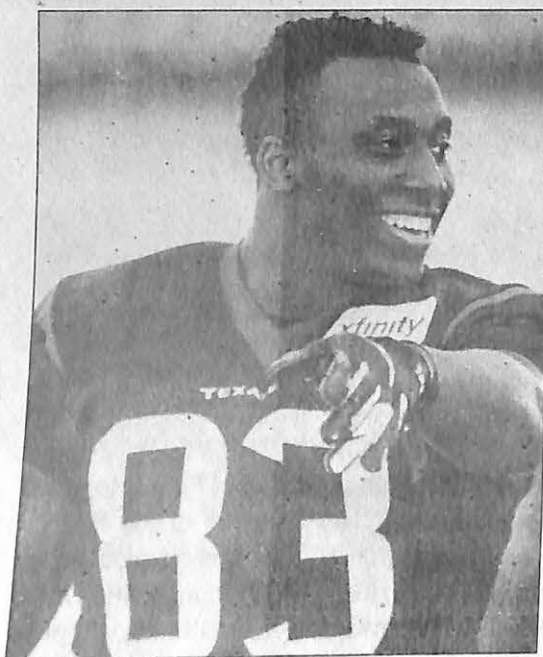
Friday, May 3, 2019

6 p.m.

Neshoba County Coliseum
Philadelphia

Warrior Athletics

EC's Thomas completes rookie season with the Texans



SUBMITTED PHOTO

EC alum Jordan Thomas is currently a tight end for the Houston Texans.

Jordan Thomas was a standout athlete at Sumrall High School, but like many small school prospects, he didn't get too many looks from the college ranks. So, he chose to go the JUCO route and signed with Ken Karcher's East Central Community College Warriors.

Thomas, who was a tight end on the ECCC football team in 2014 and 2015, had an exceptional career as a Warrior. At 6-5, 280-pounds, he was instrumental in helping the Warriors to an 8-3 record in 2015, including an MACJC playoff spot and an invitation to the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove, Texas. He finished as the No. 1 tight end in the MACJC.

He went on to play two years at Mississippi State University under head coach Dan Mullen, where as a senior in 2017 he was moved to wide receiver and had 22 catches for 263 yards and three touchdowns.

It was at Mississippi State where the

Houston Texans took notice of Thomas and selected him as the 37th pick in Round 6 of the 2018 National Football League draft in April 2018.

He completed his rookie season in the NFL with 20 receptions for 215 yards and averaged 10.8 yards per carry. He also had four touchdowns.

"I think I had a pretty good rookie season, although it wasn't as good as I wanted," Thomas said.

Thomas recently spent his three-month "off season" visiting family, working out and preparing to report back to Houston this month (April 2019).

When asked how he felt about being drafted and playing in the NFL, Thomas said he was grateful to those who helped along the way to get him where he is today.

"Looking back, East Central was one of the best parts of my life. I am grateful, thankful for everyone here who had a part in making me who I am today. I met

great friends at EC.

"There was change at every level. After I got to Mississippi State, the classes were bigger, the team and campus were bigger. I met a lot of good friends there too and enjoyed my time there. I really didn't know I had a chance to be drafted until the last two games at State.

"Then going through the combine was incredible. I was looked at by Buffalo, Arizona and several other teams. On the plane ride home, I was like 'Dang, I'm fixing to get drafted!'"

Thomas said he watched the draft from his home in Sumrall with his family, including his parents, Robert and Monique. There was no party, but just waiting and watching.

"Then I got the phone call and my heart just dropped," he said. "I knew my life was about to change. The Texans GM (General Manager) called and told me I

See THOMAS, Page 7

East Central Baseball Warriors Sweep No. 7 Jones College

The East Central Community College Warriors picked up an important MACJC doubleheader sweep over the visiting No. 7 Jones College Bobcats Tuesday, April 2, at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex on the ECCC campus.

East Central built a 4-0 lead through seven innings in the opener and then survived a late Bobcat rally for a 5-4 win. Four Warrior pitchers held the Bobcats to just four hits in the nightcap as East Central got a 6-2 win for the MACJC sweep.

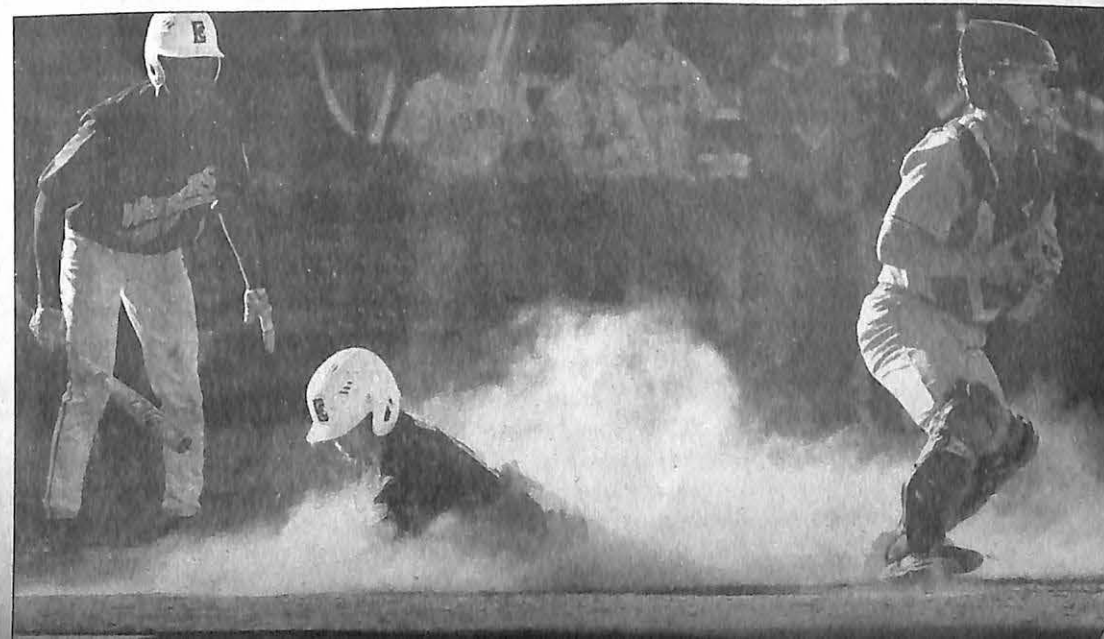
East Central improved to 14-12 overall on the season and 7-5 in MACJC play. The Warriors are in seventh place in the 15-team league. Jones fell to 21-7 overall and 6-6 in the conference.

In the opener, East Central got single runs in the second, third, fifth and sev-

give East Central a 3-0 lead. Farid got another RBI in the seventh on a single that scored Scott, who had singled.

The Bobcats made the game interesting with two runs in the top of the eighth to close the gap to 4-2. East Central picked up what would be the winning run in the bottom of the frame when Shelley stole home with two outs to give the Warriors a 5-2 lead. Jones scored twice in the top of the ninth to make the final score 5-4.

Sophomore left-hander Javian Stone (Jackson, Provine, Highland Community College) had a strong start on the mound for East Central, going six and a third innings and giving up five hits and no runs. Freshman right-hander Thomas Boothe (Fairhope, Bayside Academy) came on in relief in the top of the ninth



er Ken Scott (Clarkdale) and sophomore third baseman George Farid (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada) and a walk to sophomore catcher Alex Hay (Lewisburg) loaded the bases, before freshman first baseman Evan Keith (Vancleave) walked to bring in a run.

The Warriors extended the lead to 2-0 in the next inning when Hay doubled in sophomore second baseman Anderson Shelley (Greenville, Washington School), who had opened the inning with a single. A Farid double brought in another run in the bottom of the fifth to

hits in game one, while Hay, Scott, and Shelley had two each. Freshman pitchers Tanner Knight (Eupora), Braxton Rose (Newton County), and Roper Ball (Nanah Waiya) and sophomore Austin Braswell (Hattiesburg, Presbyterian Christian) combined to limit Jones to just four hits and two runs in the seven-inning 6-2 game two win.

East Central got a single run in the bottom of the first on a Shelley double. Two more runs crossed the plate in the third. Freshman left fielder Dakota Kennedy (Choctaw Central) opened the

Sophomore second baseman Anderson Shelley steals home for what would be the winning run in East Central's opening game win over Jones College.

inning with a single and later scored on a Farid single. Another run scored on a passed ball.

After Jones closed the gap to 3-2 in the top of the fifth, Farid, who was five of seven at the plate on the day, singled in another run, his fourth of the doubleheader. Shelley, who also had a big day at the plate with four hits in eight trips to the plate, singled in two runs in the seventh to make the final score 6-2.

Rose was credited with the win on the mound. Kennedy led East Central with three hits.

East Central hosts Itawamba at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, in Decatur.

Most East Central home baseball games can be heard on WKOZ "Cruisin" 98.3 or watched via live stream video at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media.



EC PHOTO

Leake Academy product Annika Jones connects on a two-run homer in East Central's first game against No. 6 Gulf Coast.

Lady Warriors earn split with Gulf Coast

Powered by the pitching of freshman Braelyn Boykin and a two-out RBI single from Kailee Swindle in the bottom of the sixth inning, the East Central Community College Lady Warrior softball team upset the No. 6 ranked Gulf Coast Lady Bulldogs 4-3 and gained a split in MACJC doubleheader action Wednesday, April 3, at the Softball Park on the ECCC campus.

East Central battled back from a 6-0 deficit before losing the opener 6-4, and then got the upset one-run win in the exciting nightcap.

With the split, East Central moves to 14-10 overall and 7-5 in league play. The visitors from Perkinston are now 17-9 overall and 9-3 in the league.

Boykin, a product of Mize High School, pitched all seven innings of game two and gave up just three runs on four hits with three strike outs.

The key inning for the Lady Warriors in the win was the bottom of the fourth when three runs crossed the plate. The big hit of the inning was a two-run ho-

mer off the bat of freshman right fielder MaKenzie Barnett (Neshoba Central). Freshman catcher Anna McNeer (Canton Academy) also doubled in a run in the inning to erase a 1-0 Gulf Coast lead.

After the Lady Bulldogs tied the game at 3-3 with a two runs in the top of the sixth, the Lady Warriors got the deciding run in the bottom of the frame. Back-to-back singles by McNeer and freshman third baseman Hannah Dufault (Hurley, East Central) opened the inning. Freshman designated hitter EmilySue Parkman (Lake) walked to load the bases, setting up the game-winning infield single by the freshman first baseman Swindle (Hattiesburg, Presbyterian Christian).

Boykin then set the Gulf Coast batters down in order in the top of the seventh for the win.

East Central almost pulled out a win in the opener. Trailing 6-0 heading to the bottom of the fifth, the Lady Warriors scored four times, thanks to a pair of two-run homers by freshman center

See SOFTBALL, Page 7

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2019 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

(Remaining Schedule)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCATION
Wed., April 10	Pearl River*	3 p.m.	Poplarville
Sat., April 13	Itawamba*	2 p.m.	Decatur
Tues., April 16	Hinds*	3 p.m.	Decatur
Thurs., April 18	Baton Rouge	2 p.m.	Decatur
Wed., April 24	Co-Lin*	3 p.m.	Wesson
Sat., April 27	Northwest*	2 p.m.	Senatobia
Tues., April 30	Meridian*	4 p.m.	Meridian
Sat., May 4	Coahoma*	1 p.m.	Clarksdale
Mon., May 6	Shelton State, AL	3 p.m.	Decatur

NOTE: All dates are doubleheaders
*Denotes MACJC Division Games

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2019 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

(Remaining Schedule)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCATION
Fri., April 12	Holmes*	3 & 5 p.m.	Decatur
Mon., April 15	Co-Lin*	3 & 5 p.m.	Wesson
Wed., April 17	Northeast*	1 & 3 p.m.	Booneville
Wed., April 24	Hinds*	4 & 6 p.m.	Decatur
Sat., April 27	MS Delta*	12 & 2 p.m.	Moorhead
Tues., April 30	Pearl River*	4 & 6 p.m.	Decatur
Thurs., May 2	Northwest*	2 & 4 p.m.	Decatur

*Denotes MACJC Division Games

SPORTS BRIEFS

ECCC BASEBALL TO HOST OPEN TRYOUT MAY 7

The East Central Community College baseball team will host an open tryout on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, for players interested in playing for Warriors next season. The tryout will be begin at 4 p.m. at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex.

Players should register in advance at: www.eccc.edu/eccc-baseball-open-tryout-registration.

Interested high school players must have completed their senior seasons to be eligible and bring proof of physical to participate in the tryout.

All players should bring all necessary baseball equipment.

For more information or for the status of tryouts in case of inclement weather, contact ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman at 601-575-6722 or assistant coaches Matt Mitchell at 601-900-9435 or Chance Whitten at 662-934-6519.

ROTI WARE NAMED TO NJCAA ALL-REGION 23 TEAM

East Central Community College sophomore guard Roti Ware has been named to the 2019 National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23 Men's Basketball Team.

The product of Morton High School led the Warriors this season with 19.7 points per game. He also led the team in rebounds at six per game and steals with nearly two a contest. Ware averaged 2.3 assists in the 24 games he played.



For the year, he hit 113 of 123 free throws for 92 percent.

East Central qualified for both the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Tournament and the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament at the conclusion of the 2018-19 season.

OLIVIA HOUSTON NAMED MACJC SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE WEEK FOR MARCH 18-24

East Central Community College freshman outfielder Olivia Houston was voted the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Softball Player of the Week for March 18-24.

The product of Brandon and Northwest Rankin High School hit .600 during the week as the Lady Warriors went 2-2 with two losses to No. 1 ranked Jones College and a road sweep over East Mississippi Community College.

Houston was 9 for 15 at the plate in the four games, with three doubles, a triple, a home run, and 10 RBI. She also scored five runs and stole two bases.

In a 21-3 win over East Mississippi on March 23, Houston hit for the cycle with a single, double, triple, and home run.



PREYER, WRAGGS NAMED TO NJCAA REGION 23 ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

East Central Community College freshman guard Nick Preyer and sophomore forward Diamond Wraggs were named to the 2019 National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Basketball All-Tournament Teams.

A product of LeFlore High School in Mobile, Ala., Preyer scored six points, dished out six assists, and

had a steal in East Central's 74-54 first-round NJCAA Region 23 Tournament loss to the Jones College Bobcats March 6.

For his inaugural season at ECCC, Preyer started 23 games and averaged 13.7 points and a team-high 4.6 assists and 1.7 steals per game.

Wraggs, a product of Louisville High School, scored 10 points and pulled down four rebounds in East Central's 78-66 first-round NJCAA Region 23 Tournament loss to the Itawamba Lady Indians. Wraggs also had two assists.

For the season, Wraggs averaged eight points and five rebounds per game as the Lady Warriors finished 18-6 overall.



PREYER



WRAGGS



WORK CONTINUES ON WARRIOR HALL

Work continues on the construction of Warrior Hall. ECCC broke ground Nov. 13 on the new football operations center. The \$2.6 million, 12,300 square-foot facility will be located just beyond the north end zone of Bailey Stadium.

Warrior Hall will contain locker rooms for players and for coaches, a team meeting room, position conference rooms, coaches' offices, an equipment room, a players' lounge, and a laundry room.

It will also house a state-of-the-art training room to be used by student-athletes in all nine varsity sports at the college.





SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jordan Thomas, far right, with his parents, Robert and Monique Thomas.

THOMAS

From Page 6

was about to be drafted. I was just so thankful. And I was just struck by it. Still today, after my first season, I just can't believe it. I went from Sumrall, only one JUCO offer to play, to Mississippi State and now the Texans. It's just really surreal."

Thomas said to this day, it's just crazy to have gone through the process and to play against Tom Brady and other guys he grew up watching play NFL football. He even admitted to being a bit "starstruck."

"People think I'm a celebrity now, but no, I'm still just a regular old guy. It's been cool to meet some of my own football idols, including "Gronk" (Rob Gronkowski of the New England Patriots). He's the guy I want to be like."

Thomas says he's still the same guy he was as an EC student and is quick to note that the roles could have easily been switched and it could have been someone else getting this opportunity.

"I don't get tired of the pictures or the autographs. During camp, lots of people are watching us and I try to get around to

them all. I may be tired from practice, but I do it anyway because I realize how special it is to get to be a part of all of this."

Thomas said the biggest lesson he has learned in the past year is simply how to be a professional athlete. It's something he says he's still learning, even in the off season.

"I'm learning from veteran players, not just about the game, but how to take care of my body during the off season. I'm doing everything from yoga to strength training to eating right so I'll be ready to go when we report back."



EC PHOTO

Ali Grace Walker, left, and Josie Hurst, shown in recent action, won their match against Hinds 8-4.

Hinds defeats ECCC tennis teams in MACJC matches in Raymond

(East Webster), 8-1.

Men's Singles Results:

Trujillo defeated EC's Lawrance, 6-3, 7-5; Garcia defeated EC's Santitto, 6-1, 6-3; Holmes defeated EC's Barnett, 6-1, 6-1; Livingston defeated EC's Isaac Keen (Winston Academy), 6-3, 6-4; Adams defeated EC's Wofford, 6-1, 6-2; and Rexrode defeated EC's Chaney, 6-1, 6-2.

Women's Doubles Results:

EC's Josie Hurst (Newton County) and Ali Grace Walker (Newton County) defeated Hinds' Paula Gutierrez and Danna Gonzalez, 8-4; Hinds' Anna Hayden Taylor and Ayrelle Grace Waters defeated EC's Gabriela Gomez (Bogota, Colombia) and Kayla Baucum (Newton County), 8-6; and Hinds' Courtney Buffington and Madison Curtis defeated EC's Alexis Tindall (Newton County Academy) and Bethany Wellerman (Newton County Academy), 8-4.

Women's Singles Results:

Gutierrez defeated EC's Gomez, 6-3, 6-2; EC's Walker defeated Hinds' Gonzalez, 5-7, 6-3 (10-5); Curtis defeated EC's Hurst, 6-2, 6-0; Hinds' Olivia White defeated EC's Tindall, 6-3, 6-1; EC's Wellerman defeated Taylor, 5-7, 6-1 (10-5); and EC's Baucum defeated Buffington, 6-2, 4-6 (10-4).

The Hinds Community College tennis teams defeated the East Central Community College Warriors and Lady Warriors in MACJC matches played Tuesday, April 2, on the Hinds campus in Raymond.

The No. 18 ranked Hinds Eagles won the men's match 9-0, while the Hinds Lady Eagles defeated the No. 25 ranked ECCC Lady Warriors 5-4. The two teams split back in March, with the Lady Warriors winning 5-4 and the Warriors losing 7-2.

The East Central women are now 10-7 on the season, while the ECCC men are 8-9.

"It was a tough loss for the women," said ECCC head tennis coach Jay Pacelli. "Hinds played well. We had some good individual performances from Ali Grace Walker, Bethany Wellerman, and Kayla Baucum."

Men's Doubles Results:

Hinds' Mateo Garcia and Carlos Trujillo defeated EC's Chris Lawrance (York, Western Australia) and Isaac Santitto (Innisfail, Queensland, Australia), 8-4; Hinds' Chris Adams and Bryce Livingston defeated EC's Dylan Barnett (Newton County) and Peyton Chaney (Newton County), 8-3; and Hinds' Eric Holmes and Drew Rexrode defeated EC's Will Ladner (Stone County) and Jake Wofford

STRIKE A POSE

■ **Why did you choose East Central?**
It is close to my family.

■ **What is your favorite thing about East Central?**
The softball girls. They feel like family.

■ **Favorite meal in the cafeteria?**
Country Fried Steak.

■ **Who is your favorite staff/faculty member and why?**
Coach Neel because he pushed me and I've become a better softball player since I've gotten here.

■ **Worst thing about college life?**
Hard classes and studying all the time.

■ **What extracurricular activities are you involved with?**
I am in Phi Theta Kappa and softball.

■ **Best memory at East Central?**
Winning our first home game.

■ **What are your plans after East Central?**
I'm going to go to dental school and be an orthodontist.



OLIVIA HOUSTON
Freshman • Brandon, MS
Pre-Dental

SOFTBALL

From Page 6

fielder Parker Breland (Union) and sophomore shortstop Annika Jones (Leake Academy).

Gulf Coast pitcher Bryley Rodriguez came to the circle and shut down the

Lady Warriors over the final two and two thirds innings.

Freshman Jesalyn Jarrette (Baskin, La., Franklin Academy) went all seven innings in the circle for the Lady Warriors in game one, striking out four batters in the loss.

The next home action

for the Lady Warriors is Friday, April 12, when Holmes visits Decatur for a doubleheader that begins at 3 p.m.

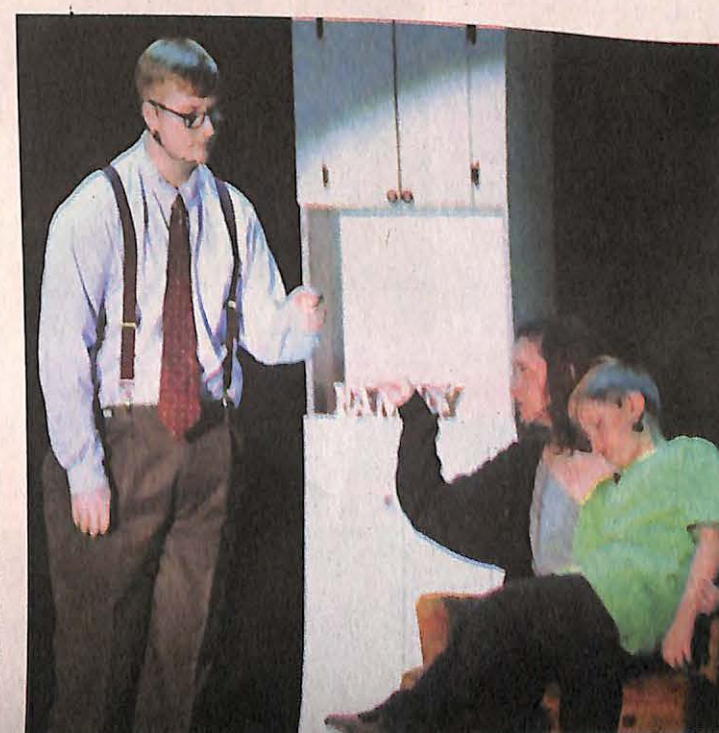
Most East Central home softball games can be heard on WKOZ "Cruisin" 98.3 or watched via live stream video at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media.



The East Central Community College Encore Players presented "Freaky Friday" March 29-April 2, 2019, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium. The script was by Bridget Carpenter with music and lyrics by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey, respectively. According to director Jessica Price, "Freaky Friday is about an overworked mother and her teenage daughter who magically swap bodies and have just one day to put things right again. By spending the day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and

mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter." The cast included Savanna Baucum as Ellie, Beth Fortner as Katherine, Mike Savell as Fletcher, Josh Mitchell as Mike, Allyson Hollingsworth as Gretchen, Molly Cliburn as Hannah, Maggie Gressett as Savannah, Jack Vidals as Parker, Jasmine McDonald as Wells/Louise, Kasey Logan as Torrey, Wesley Akins as Grandpa/Senor O'Brien, Kaitlyn Morris as Danielle/Mrs. Luckenbill/Mrs. Time, and Kirk Griffin as Dr. Ehrin/Pastor Bruno/Officer Kowalski.

EC PHOTOS





EC PHOTO

NEWLY-ELECTED ECCC STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS – Newly elected Student Body Association officers who will provide leadership for the 2019-20 term at East Central Community College and their respective high schools are (from left) Student Body Association President Matthew Riley of Murrah, Vice President Kayla Baucum of Newton County, and Secretary Bryce Callie Lott and Treasurer Lydia Bishop, both of Sebastopol. Dr. Amanda Walton, director of housing and student activities, serves as advisor for the group.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ART STUDENTS PAINT MURAL FOR CPS OFFICE – ECCC art majors who painted a mural in the Family Visitation Room of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services office in Decatur were (from left) Joe Prine III, Halley Brooks, Rebekah Smith, Cassidy Jenkins, and Keli Smith. Not pictured is Kaitlyn Morris. Art students at East Central Community College recently brightened up an area of the building by painting a mural on the wall of the Family Visitation Room. According to ECCC adjunct art instructor LeeReyna Lopez Leyva, the MDCPS reached out to the college's Art Department requesting the room be painted to provide a more pleasing space for the foster youth they serve. The office has more than 30 children in foster care, as well as about 30 families they serve in In-Home Service cases. "The Art Department is thrilled to have been a part of this creation that will brighten the atmosphere for the youth at the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services in Decatur," said Lopez Leyva. Lopez Leyva said the Art Department faculty appointed sophomore art major Halley Brooks of Carthage to create a sketch of the mural. Once completed and approved, the other students assisted in painting the mural.

Spring Spree

April 15-18

Sponsored by the Student Body Association

Monday, April 15

◆ EC's Got Talent, 6 p.m.

HUFF AUDITORIUM

(Signup sheets in the office of Dr. Amanda Walton in the Student Union Building)

◆ Foam Party, 8 p.m.

LAKE PAVILION

Tuesday, April 16

◆ Crawfish Boil, 5 p.m.

CLARK-GAY BASEBALL COMPLEX

(ECCC vs. Hinds baseball doubleheader begins at 3 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 17

◆ Scavenger Hunt, 3 p.m.

◆ College Worship, 8:30 p.m.

CLARKE-VENABLE BAPTIST CHURCH

◆ Pancake Party, 9:30 p.m.

MABRY CAFETERIA

Thursday, April 18

◆ Spring Spree Games, 2 p.m.